

**Amendment to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (original): A method of monitoring nodes in a network including a plurality of nodes, comprising:

processing at least one node identified by an identifier in a set of a circular list of sets, each set of the circular list of sets including zero or more identifiers of nodes; and  
advancing to the next set of the circular list of sets.

Claim 2 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein processing the at least one node includes sending a polling message to the at least one node.

Claim 3 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the processing the at least one node includes moving the identifier to a subsequent set of the circular list of sets.

Claim 4 (original): The method of claim 3, wherein the subsequent set is the set that will be processed at the next timing interval of the node identified by the identifier.

Claim 5 (original): The method of claim 1, further comprising adding a copy of the identifier to a subsequent set of the circular list of sets.

Claim 6 (original): The method of claim 5, wherein the subsequent set is the set that will be processed when a response from the node identified by the identifier is expected.

Claim 7 (original): The method of claim 1, further comprising processing polling responses.

Claim 8 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the processing and advancing are performed at periodic intervals.

Claim 9 (currently amended): A system, comprising:

a processor; and

a memory storing a network management system for execution by the processor for monitoring nodes in a network including a plurality of nodes, the network management system comprising:

computer code that processes at least one node identified by an identifier in a set ~~asset~~ of a circular list of sets, each set of the circular list of sets including zero or more identifiers of nodes; and

computer code that advances to the next set of the circular list of sets.

Claim 10 (original): A system for monitoring nodes in a network including a plurality of nodes, comprising:

means for processing at least one node identified by an identifier in a set of a circular list of sets, each set of the circular list of sets including zero or more identifiers of nodes; and

means for advancing to the next set of the circular list of sets.

Claim 11 (original): A method of monitoring nodes in a network including a plurality of nodes, comprising:

receiving a signal from a timer at periodic intervals;

processing polling responses;

processing at least one node identified by an identifier in a set of a circular list of sets by sending a polling message to the at least one node, each set of the circular list of sets including zero or more identifiers of nodes; and

advancing to the next set of the circular list of sets.

Claim 12 (original): The method of claim 11, wherein the processing the at least one node includes moving the identifier to a subsequent set of the circular list of sets.

Claim 13 (original): The method of claim 12, wherein the subsequent set is the set that will be processed at the next timing interval of the node identified by the identifier.

Claim 14 (original): The method of claim 11, further comprising adding a copy of the identifier to a subsequent set of the circular list of sets.

Claim 15 (original): The method of claim 14, wherein the subsequent set is the set that will be processed when a response from the node identified by the identifier is expected.

Claim 16 (original): A system, comprising:  
a processor; and

a memory storing a network management system for execution by the processor for monitoring nodes in a network including a plurality of nodes, the network management system comprising:

computer code for a timer that generates a signal at periodic intervals;

computer code for a poller that processes polling responses; processes at least one node identified by an identifier in a set of a circular list of sets by sending a polling message to the at least one node, each set of the circular list of sets including zero or more identifiers of nodes; and advances to the next set of the circular list of sets.

Claim 17 (original): A system for monitoring nodes in a network including a plurality of nodes, comprising:

means for receiving a signal from a timer at periodic intervals;

means for processing polling responses;

means for processing at least one node identified by an identifier in a set of a circular list of sets by sending a polling message to the at least one node, each set of the circular list of sets including zero or more identifiers of nodes; and

means for advancing to the next set of the circular list of sets.